

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 4, 2007

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS and Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6031

The Honorable Arlen Specter, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS and Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6031

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Specter:

We are writing to bring to your attention our strong support for the TRIO programs. As you are aware, TRIO is one of the nation's most important educational initiatives designed to advance equal educational opportunity in America's colleges and universities. The TRIO programs allow thousands of students the necessary support to enroll in college and it narrows the gap between low-income, first-generation students and their peers.


These TRIO programs are vital to ensuring every student has a chance to receive a meaningful education. Providing increased support for all programs will allow TRIO to maintain existing services and expand its capacity to reach additional students. For the past three years, the TRIO programs have not received an increase and services have been terminated across the country, denying tens of thousands of students the chance to participate in these important programs. **Therefore, we strongly urge the Subcommittee to increase funding for TRIO by \$100 million in the FY 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. This increase will allow approximately 100,000 additional students the opportunity to participate in the TRIO programs.**


The Higher Education Act of 1965 demonstrated our nation's commitment to providing educational opportunities for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background or economic circumstance. In support of this commitment, Congress established a series of programs—the TRIO programs. More than 1,200 colleges, universities and agencies offer TRIO Programs throughout the United States and an estimated two million TRIO students have college degrees.

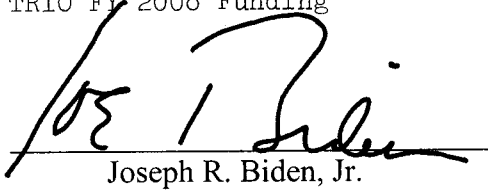
The Subcommittee is to be commended for its strong commitment to TRIO over the past few years, especially in restoring two programs that were continually eliminated by President Bush in his budget proposals—Talent Search and Upward Bound. While we understand the need to balance priorities, we hope you will agree that the TRIO Programs are critical to the success of many of our nation's youth and support these programs in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.

Thank you for considering our request with regard to the TRIO Programs in Fiscal Year 2008. We look forward to working with you to support these important programs.

Sincerely,

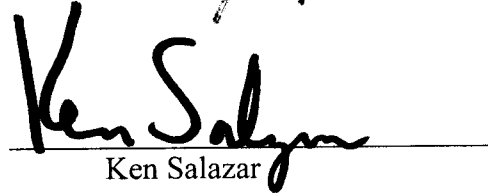

Susan M. Collins

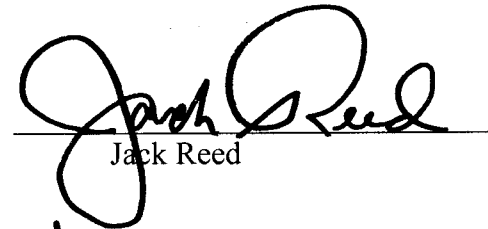

Blanche L. Lincoln


Joseph R. Biden, Jr.


Mary L. Landrieu

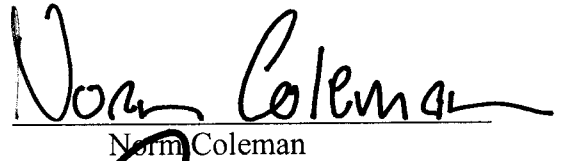

Herb Kohl

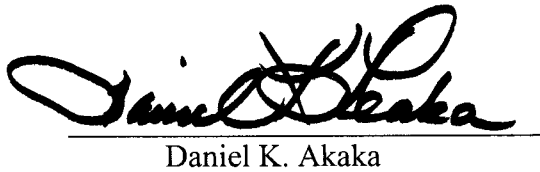

Ken Salazar

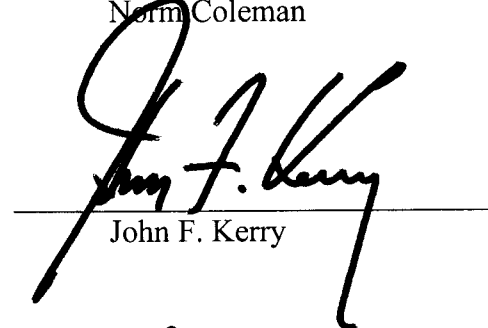

Jack Reed

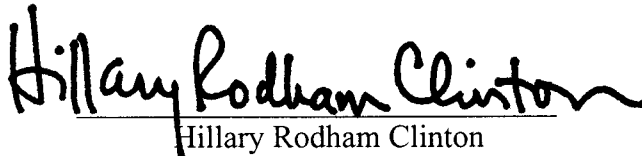

Maria Cantwell


Kent Conrad

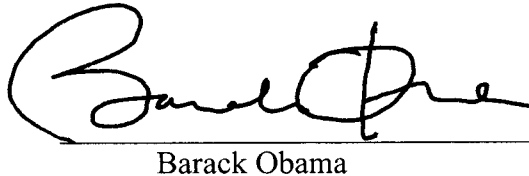

Norm Coleman

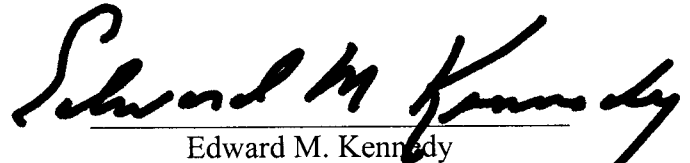

Daniel K. Akaka



John F. Kerry

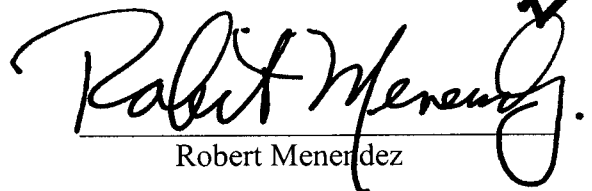

Hillary Rodham Clinton



John Ensign


Barack Obama



Edward M. Kennedy


John Warner


Robert Menerdez

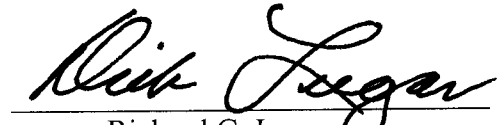

John D. Rockefeller IV

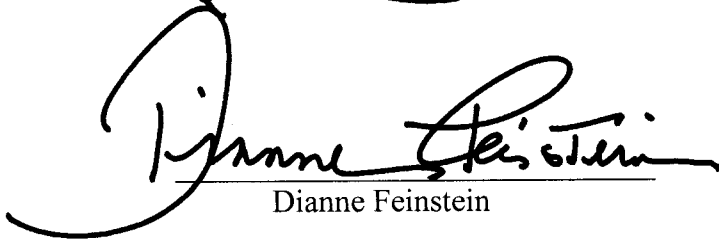

Max Baucus


Christopher J. Dodd

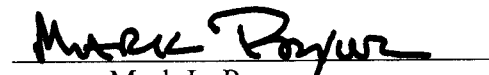

Charles E. Schumer



Debbie Stabenow

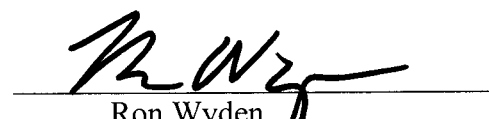

Richard G. Lugar


Dianne Feinstein



Russell D. Feingold

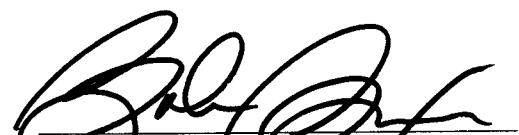

Mark L. Pryor

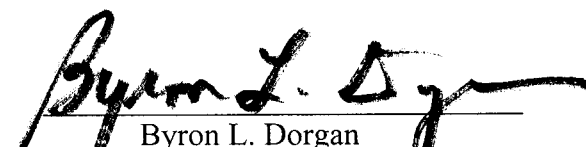

Richard J. Durbin



Ron Wyden

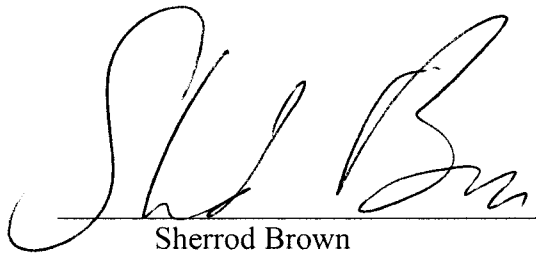

Evan Bayh

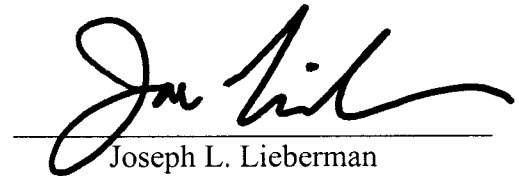

Olympia J. Snowe


Barbara Boxer

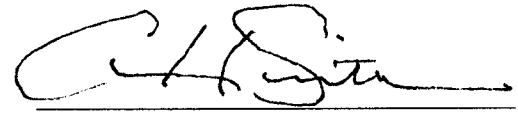

Byron L. Dorgan

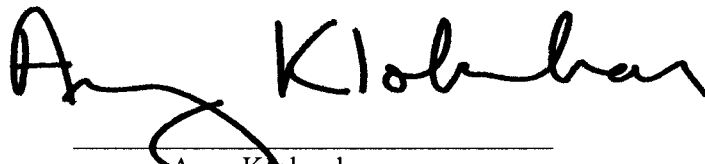

Lisa Murkowski


Sherrod Brown



Joseph L. Lieberman


Carl Levin


Gordon H. Smith

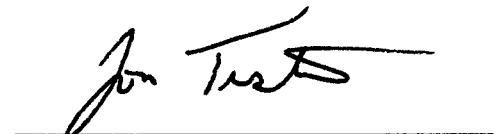

Amy Klobuchar


Benjamin L. Cardin


Sheldon Whitehouse


Bernard Sanders


Barbara A. Mikulski


Jon Tester